

## Message from the Fire Chief



**James A. Gray, Jr.**

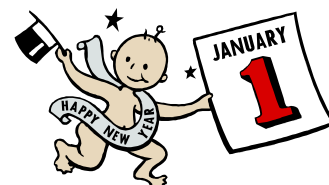
A wise person once said, "There is no exercise better for the human heart than reaching out and lifting people up." In an effort to do that, I am proud to announce the debut of our first commu-

nity newsletter, *Fire Side*. *Fire Side* is the Fire & Rescue Division's most recent communication tool. It has been designed to allow the community greater accessibility into the Fire Division, to keep residents abreast of the vast array of programs and services provided by

the Division, and to provide seasonal fire safety and prevention tips, as well as news and information about events. We also hope to answer the most commonly asked questions received by the Division.

This is our link to the community we serve, so we encourage your comments and concerns, as they will help us better serve you. The Feedback section on the back of the newsletter allows just that; feel free to post a letter or email us at any time. Our motto is "*Citizens First*", and our hope is that you will find our newsletter both interesting and informative, but most of all beneficial.

"There is no exercise better for the human heart than reaching out and lifting people up."

## Happy New Year

### Inside this issue:

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## CERT Classes Scheduled for February

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training Program was instituted by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and is designed to teach citizens disaster preparedness. Hampton was the first city in the state to launch a CERT program. CERT training is sponsored by the Fire Division and is **free**.

Classes are taught over an 8-week period and touch on all disasters, but emphasis is placed on those that are more likely to occur in our area. Classes are taught by emergency services instructors and are about 2-1/2 hours long. The last class consists of hands-on practical exercises incorporating the skills students learned the previous 7 weeks. Certificates are issued to all students completing the classes.

If you're interested in attending CERT training classes, contact the Coordinator at, 726-6968.

### SCHEDULE

FEB. 1—Orientation Disaster Preparedness  
FEB. 3—Disaster Fire Suppression  
FEB. 8—Disaster Medical Ops Part I  
FEB. 10—Disaster Medical Ops Part II

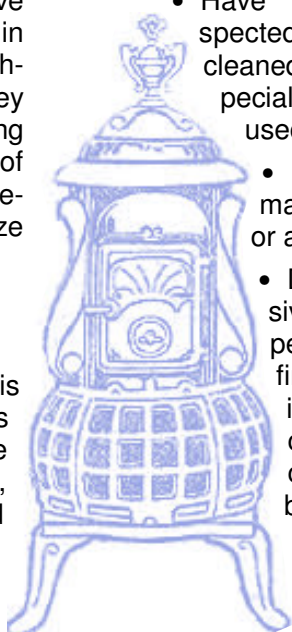
FEB. 15—Light Search & Rescue Ops  
FEB. 17—Disaster Psychology & Team Org.  
FEB. 24—Terrorism & CERT Teams  
FEB. 26—Practical

## Winter Fire Safety - Wood Stoves & Fire Places

Wood stoves and fireplaces have become a common heat source in many homes. Though these methods of heating are acceptable, they are however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

### To use them safely:

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Woodstoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces, and proper floor support and protection.
- Woodstoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.



- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used in some time.

- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.

- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to

prevent embers or sparks from popping out.

- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the manufacturer's directions. Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the home.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure the fireplace fire is out. **NEVER** close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will allow the fire to heat up again and force toxic carbon monoxide into the home.

Hampton Fire & Rescue wishes you a warm and *safe* winter.

Source: United States Fire Administration



## Frequently Asked Questions

Q .

Why should I call 9-1-1 in an emergency when there is a Fire Station around the corner from my home?

A .

Calling the Fire Station nearest your home in an emergency may actually increase the time it takes to respond to your complaint. Consider these facts: 1) When you dial 9-1-1, you reach communications personnel specially trained to handle your complaint and gather pertinent information. 2) The station nearest your home may be empty; station personnel may already be responding to a call. 3) The 9-1-1 system has Caller I.D. capabilities. If for some reason the call is disconnected, Fire/EMS personnel can still be dispatched. Fire stations do not have this capability. 4) Communications personnel can continue to gather information from you and relay it to Fire/EMS personnel while they are enroute to you. Dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency can expedite the response and literally mean the difference between life and death!



Fire Division employees "roll up their sleeves" for flu shots recently. The shots were administered by personnel from Riverside Business Health Services. An earlier flu shot session had been scheduled but was canceled due to the shortage of vaccine. The influenza vaccine is made available to all Division employees, however, participation in the program is strictly voluntary.



Photos courtesy: Lt. Brian Rueger





# TRFA 95

Left - Chief Gray congratulates a new recruit at the TRFA graduation ceremony which was held on Dec. 3, 2004 at the Norfolk Fire Training Center. Below - Hampton graduates pose for a group picture.



Just what is TRFA? It's Tidewater Regional Fire Academy which is made up of Fire Departments from the following jurisdictions: Hampton, Newport News, Fort Eustis, Poquoson, James City County, Williamsburg, York County, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach. The Academy is staffed with State of Virginia certified training officers. Each time a class is held, it is hosted by one of the jurisdictions. Instructors, and even facilities are shared between the various jurisdictions at times. Firefighter training consists of a 16-week course which includes hose, ventilation, rescue, ladder, rope, and live-fire evolutions. Students are evaluated on both physical and academic performance during the academy and must successfully participate in all practical exercises and a physical fitness regimen.



## Safety Recall on Off-Road 'Cycles

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), American Suzuki Motor Corporation is voluntarily recalling its Suzuki 2005 model year DR-Z110K5 off-road motorcycles, and Kawasaki Motors Enterprise (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is recalling its 2005 Kawasaki model KLX110-A4 off-highway motorcycles.

The Suzuki DR-Z110K5 is a small motorcycle designed for a rider weighing less than 121 pounds. Suzuki dealers sold these ATVs nationwide between July '04 and early November '04. They are yellow in color with red stripe on the side of the fuel tank with a large "S", the Suzuki logo.

The recalled Kawasaki motorcycles are 2005 model KLX110 off-highway "minicycles." They are small-sized motorcycles intended for use by minors and adults. They are green in color, and have "Kawasaki" and "KLX110" identification on the sides of the fuel tank.

The rear shock absorber on each of these models may have been assembled with an incorrect o-ring, allowing fluid to leak from the shock absorber. Fluid loss from the shock absorber can compromise the shock's damping characteristics, which can render the motorcycle unstable creating a potential for injury or death.

Consumers should stop using these motorcycles immediately and contact a local Suzuki dealer to schedule an appointment for repair service. For more info, see CPSC website: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

# FREE

## Blood Pressure Checks



**Any  
Hampton Fire Station  
No Appointment  
Necessary**



# Make A Difference...

## VOLUNTEER

### Volunteer Training...

- *Is identical to that of career personnel*
- *Is provided at no cost to the student*
- *Allows you to try out the job before committing to a career*
- *Gives you a head start if you decide to make it a career*
- *Allows you to gain valuable leadership skills while giving back to the community*

Firefighter Agility Test.....	Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005
Pre-Requisite Classes Begin .....	Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2005
Firefighter Classes Begin .....	Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2005
FF I & II State Test .....	Saturday, May 7, 2005

Pre-Requisite Class Schedule is Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30, and Saturdays 8:30 - 4:30, Feb. 15 thru Feb. 26.

Firefighter I & II Class Schedule is Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30, and Saturdays 8:30 - 4:30 Mar. 1 thru May 26.

Volunteer applications are available from the Recruiting Coordinator's office located on the 2nd Floor of the Fire Training Center, at 1300 Thomas Street, Hampton, VA. If you're prepared to meet the challenge of volunteering, contact the Recruiting Coordinator to see if you qualify, (757) 727-1316. NOTE: Application process must be completed and approved prior to participation.

## Feedback

### We Want to Know What You Think



#### Got a Question?

Want to Make a Comment,  
or Just Offer a Suggestion?

#### CONTACT US

by mail:

Fire Side Feedback

1300 Thomas Street • Hampton, VA 23669

or by e-mail at:

[lmiller@hamptonfire.tni.net](mailto:lmiller@hamptonfire.tni.net)

